

EM SSAB Chairs Conference Call

March 23, 2016

Participants

Board

Hanford
Idaho
Nevada

Chairs/Representatives

Steve Hudson, Susan Leckband
Herb Bohrer
Donna Hruska, Janice Keiserman
Doug Sayre, Gerard Martinez
Alfreda Cook
Doreen (Renie) Barger

Bob Berry
Harold Simon

Site Staff

Kristen Holmes
Jordan Davies
Kelly Snyder, Barbara Ulmer

Menice Santistevan, Mike Gardipe
Pete Osborne
Buz Smith, Eric Roberts, Mike Kemp
Rick Greene, Julie Galloway
de'Lisa Carrico

DOE-HQ Representatives

EM-3.2 David Borak, Elizabeth Davison, Allison Finelli, Michelle Hudson, Jared Bierbach

EM-60 Barton Barnhart

Opening Remarks

Mr. David Borak, Designated Federal Officer for the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), called the meeting to order.

Chairs' Meeting Update

Mr. Borak confirmed that the next EM SSAB Chairs Meeting would be held on April 19-21, at the Doubletree Hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and reminded everyone that registration closed on March 29. Mr. Pete Osborne from the ORSSAB staff reviewed the tour logistics for the Oak Ridge Laboratory Tour and described security procedures.

Mr. Borak asked whether the chairs had any comments or concerns about the draft chairs meeting agenda. Mr. Doug Sayre of the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board suggested adding information about the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) Update. Mr. Borak agreed this would be a good idea. Mr. Borak reminded the chairs to submit their round robin slides.

Budget Update

Mr. Barton Barnhart, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning & Budget, summarized the FY 2016 budget, and spoke briefly about FY 2017 budget request, and FY 2018 budget formulation process.

The omnibus for FY 2016 includes \$6.2 billion for the EM program, which is a \$400 million increase over the request level. Most of this increase went to:

- Decontamination and decommissioning activities at Oak Ridge's Y-12 and ORNL, Richland's River Corridor, and Paducah/Portsmouth.
- Recovery activities at Carlsbad.

With regard to FY 2017, Mr. Barnhart said that EM's request of \$6.1 billion provides the program with the resources to maintain a safe and secure posture across the EM complex. Mr. Barnhart reviewed how over the course of the coming fiscal year, EM's FY 2017 request will support the program in continuing to make important and tangible progress. For example, the request will provide the resources to complete one of EM's highest priorities --- recovery of WIPP. The request will also support the planned completion of two major demolition projects--- one at Hanford and the last gaseous diffusion enrichment process building at Oak Ridge.

EM is incorporating more spending into its FY 2017 request for infrastructure needs across the complex. Mr. Barnhart then went over the site specific budget impacts for FY 2017 and broke down the program by mission area.

Mr. Barnhart said EM released guidance to the field on formulating their FY 2018 integrated priority list. The purpose of this HQ guidance on stakeholder involvement is to set EM-1 expectations for field manager engagement – the goal is consistency across the enterprise.

Mr. Barnhart said that there are no major policy or procedural changes from last year's memo issued by then Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney. He went on to note that sites can always discuss site priorities with stakeholders at any time during the budget formulation process. Once the sites submit their FY 2018 request to HQ, funding targets become embargoed.

Mr. Barnhart thanked the Chairs for their time and opened the discussion up to questions. Ms. Leckband from the HAB noted that in the past few years Hanford has struggled due to a variety of lawsuits to receive specific budget information from ORP. More recently, however, information sharing has improved and frustration has lessened.

Other Business

Mr. Steve Hudson from the HAB discussed how changes in the way that people get information about Hanford is speeding up dramatically. He noted how the advent of smartphone technology has allowed people to more quickly encounter information about the site via their devices. He spoke of the increased pace in which people are asking clarifying questions and requesting explanations. Mr. Hudson wondered how they could get EM to communicate information that did not necessarily have a regulatory aspect to the site, but would have impacts on a site like Hanford. Specifically with the recent change package that was introduced, people were concerned about the milestones being pushed out.

Mr. Borak noted that a lot of what Mr. Hudson brought up can be discussed at the communications session which will be held on the second day of the Chairs Meeting in Oak

Ridge. Ms. Leckband agreed. She noted that even though there is not a regulatory requirement there should be an analysis of the ripple-effects that these various other DOE-EM those decisions have on sites and communities.

Seeing no further business Mr. Borak concluded the discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM EST.